

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MASERU 00208 01 OF 02 171948Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 CU-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 /054 W

-----172020 082625 /47

P R 170905Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6720

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MASERU 0208

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LT

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 17570, B. 76 MASERU 1424,

1. SUMMARY: REFUGEES IN LESOTHO FALL INTO TWO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES. ONE IS THE RESTRICTIVELY DEFINED UNHCR REFUGEE GROUP, WHICH IS SMALL IN NUMBERS AND SEEMINGLY OFFERS LITTLE PROBLEM TO GOL AND UNHCR. THE OTHER IS A LESS WELL DEFINED GROUP, WHICH IS REPORTEDLY MUCH GREATER IN NUMBERS, AND WHICH COULD BE A SERIOUS DRAIN ON GOL'S RESOURCES. INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS LARGER GROUP MAKES SOUND EVALUATION OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE GAPS DIFFICULT. END
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MASERU 00208 01 OF 02 171948Z

SUMMARY.

2. THERE IS RELATIVELY SMALL GROUP OF SOUTH AFRICANS WHO HAVE REGISTERED AS REFUGEES HERE WHO ARE RECEIVING SOME UNHCR MAIN-TENANCE ASSISTANCE. THESE ARE THE ONES WHO STATE THEY CANNOT RETURN TO THEIR HOMES WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF ARREST OR PERSECUTION AND HAVE BEEN ACCORDED FORMAL REFUGEE STATUS BY GOL AND UNHCR. THIS

GROUP NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 90-95. OF THESE ABOUT 70 ARE LONGER TERM RESIDENTS OF LESOTHO WHO ARE GENERALLY OVER 30 YEARS OF AGE, VARIOUSLY EDUCATED, EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN FEMALE AND MALE AND GENERALLY OF URBAN BACKGROUND. SOME LONG-TERM RESIDENTS ARE EMPLOYED AND SELFSUSTAINING. THE REMAINING 20-25 ARE POST-SOWETO ARRIVALS, BETWEEN 15 TO 21 YEARS OF AGE, HAVE SOME PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, ARE PREDOMINANTLY MALE (TOTAL OF 4 FEMALES) AND COME FROM URBAN BACKGROUNDS. GOL HAS MADE AVAILABLE GOVERNMENT STAFF HOUSE FOR HOUSING 16 MALES AMONG THE RECENT ARRIVALS. OTHERS ARE LIVING WITH FRIENDS OR EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS. IN ADDITION, 1-4 GIRLS ARE BEING HOUSED AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AT GOL EXPENSE (ONE IS NUL STUDENT). GOL HAS FURTHER ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE RECENT REFUGEES WITH PLACEMENT IN LESOTHO SECONDARY SCHOOLS. UNHCR THROUGH LOCAL NGO CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF LESOTHO, IS PROVIDING A LIVING ALLOWANCE OF R 20 (\$23) PER MONTH TO ALL REGISTERED REFUGEES. UNHCR HAS PLEDGED R 10,000 WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE EXHAUSTED BY JULY 1977. EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY REQUEST FROM GOL FOR ASSISTANCE TO REGISTERED REFUGEES, AND EXPECTS NONE AT THIS POINT. PRESENT REFUGEE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE UNDER CONTROL AND WITHIN CAPABILITIES OF UNHCR AND GOL TO COPE.

3. RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS EMANATING FROM GOL OFFICIALS CONCERNING A MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF DE FACTO IF NOT DE JURE REFUGEES. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS AND CONTACTS WITH THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT NUL THERE IS A LARGE GROUP OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN LESOTHO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FROM PRIMARY GRADES UP TO AND INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITY. IT IS ALLEGED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND (ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 3 TO 11,000) SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SENT BY BASOTHO PARENTS RESIDING IN SOUTH AFRICA TO RECEIVE THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MASERU 00208 01 OF 02 171948Z

EDUCATION IN LESOTHO. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THIS INFLUX IS DESIRE TO ESCAPE THE RESTRICTIONS/LIMITATIONS OF "BANTU" EDUCATION IN RSA. ACCORDING TO GOL MORE THAN 800 SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE ALSO COME FROM SA TO LESOTHO FOR THIS REASON.

4. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT NUL CLAIMS THAT ALTHOUGH ONLY 25 "CLASSIC REFUGEES" ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY, MOST OF THE APPROXIMATELY 100 FOREIGN STUDENTS AT NUL ARE EFFECTIVELY REFUGEES AS THEY ANTICIPATE TRAVEL PROBLEMS OR POSSIBLE DETENTION IF THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY (ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA OR NAMIBIA). VC ALSO ASSERTS THAT UNIVERSITY HAS EXPERIENCED LARGE INCREASE IN FOREIGN STUDENT APPLICATIONS (UP FROM 100 IN 76-77 TO 220 FOR 77-78) FROM SA STUDENTS AND UP 600 TO 1000 FOR ZIMBABWEAN STUDENTS), THOUGH THE UNIVERSITY WILL ADMIT ONLY ABOUT 45 OF THESE, IF IT STAYS WITHIN LIMITS OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN. VC FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT AS OF AUGUST 1976 UNIVERSITY BOARD DECIDED (WITH GOL CONCURRENCE) ALL FOREIGN STUDENTS WOULD PAY RESIDENT RATE OF R1000 INSTEAD OF NORMAL FOREIGN STUDENT RATE OF R2800 PER YEAR.

5. PROBLEM FACING GOL IS CONTINUING ABSORPTION OF FINANCIAL COSTS OF UNDERWRITING "FOREIGN CUM REFUGEE" STUDENT POPULATION IN ITS ALREADY SHAKY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. DANISH AID HAS BEEN ONLY EXTERNAL DONOR TO RESPOND TO "FOREIGN" STUDENT PROBLEM AND ONLY AT NUL. DANIDA HAS AGREED TO BUILD TWO \$500,000/100 BED DORMITORIES TO HOUSE INCREASED FOREIGN STUDENT ENROLLMENT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH GROUPS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS (REFUGEES AS DEFINED BY UNHCR AND THE LARGER MORE BROADLY DEFINED GROUP) HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO UN MISSION THAT VISITED LESOTHO DURING PAST TWO WEEKS. RECOMMENDATIONS OF UN MISSION NOT LIKELY BE AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MASERU 00208 02 OF 02 171210Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 CU-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 /054 W

-----172019 077278 /47

P R 170905Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6721

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MASERU 0208

6. ASSESSMENT: PRESENT REFUGEE COSTS BEING BORNE BY LESOTHO ARE SMALL. THESE CONSIST OF COST OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE MADE AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG NEW ARRIVALS PLUS EDUCATION EXPENSES BEING ABSORBED. REFUGEES ARE RECEIVING MARGINAL MAINTENANCE PROVIDED BY UNHCR. WE FORESEE CONTINUING SLOW INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF REFUGEES BUT DOUBT THERE WILL BE MASSIVE INFLUX IN LESOTHO UNLESS WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT IN SA. HOWEVER, LARGE GROUP OF QUAIS-REFUGEE STUDENTS IN LESOTHO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM PRESENTS SERIOUS AND

GROWING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FOR GOL. IN ITS REPORT PREPARED FOR THE UN MISSION THE GOL REPORTEDLY CLAIMED UPWARDS OF R 8 MILLION NEEDED TO OFFSET DRAIN ON GOL FINANCES IN THIS AREA.

7. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DEPT MAY BE CONSIDERING A REQUEST FROM AAI FOR \$133,000 FOR ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS AT NUL. EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SUCH FUNDS, IF AVAILABLE, BE USED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MASERU 00208 02 OF 02 171210Z

COVER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NORMAL FOREIGN STUDENT TUITION RATE OF R2800 PER YEAR AND GOL SUBSIDIZED RATE OF R 1000 PER YEAR. THIS ACTION WOULD BRING IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO TIGHT NUL FINANCES AND UNDERLINE USG CONCERN FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES AND FINANCIAL BURDEN BORNE BY NUL AND GOL AS RESULT OF FOREIGN STUDENT INFLUX. STOKES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, CITIZENSHIP STATUS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MASERU00208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0634
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770232/aaaabciy.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 33a417c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 17570, 76 MASERU 1424
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3297420
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, LT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/33a417c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009